

Message Text

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CNET PENSACOLA FLORIDA

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 2584

LIMDIS

ADMIN

REF: COMUSNAVSO MESSAGE 132100Z MAR 75

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS

SUBJ: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR RESEARCH IN COLOMBIAN VIOLENCE--

LCDR SALISBURY USN

1. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH
IN CIVIC ACTION, COUNTERINSURGENCY AND "LA VIOLENCIA". WE
ALSO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF IT AND THE ACADEMIC
WORTH AND PURPOSES SERVED, INCLUDING LCDR SALISBURY'S OWN
ACADEMIC INTERESTES. IT IS NOT THE RESEARCH IN AND OR ITSELF
THAT IS THE PROBLEM. IT IS THAT IT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY
AN ACTIVE DUTY OFFICER OF THE US GOVERNMENT WHICH UNAVOIDABLY
IDENTIFIES AND INVOLVES THIS EMBASSY AND THE USG. AND THIS
PRESENTS SOME DIFFICULT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS AND RISKS.

2. THIS DOES NOT REFER TO OBVIOUS SENSITIVITIES AND
VISIBILITY ALONE. THERE ARE CONCRETE PROBLEMS THAT ALSO
ARISE. WE HAVE VERY RECENTLY HAD A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM
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INVOLVING AN ARMY FAO STUDENT, WHICH HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE

CONCERN AND QUESTION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS TO THE STATUS OF OFFICIAL US PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN THIS KIND OF "STUDENT" OR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY. THE MINISTRY IS NOW "SENSITIZED" ON THIS POINT. AND THERE IS NOW IN FACT A REAL QUESTION BEFORE US AS TO WHETHER SUCH PERSONNEL ACCREDITED, ATTACHED OR ADMINISTRATIVELY SUPPORTED IN ORTHER THAN "NORMAL" DIPLOMATIC MISSION ACTIVITY HAVE ANY IMMUNITIES OR PRIVILEGES UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION.

3. ON TOP OF THIS, THE RECENT CIA INTERVENTION CHARGES HAVE HAD THEIR EFFECT HERE. LEFTIST PUBLICATIONS HAVE BEEN MAKING SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST THIS MISSION, AND MOST RECENTLY AGAINST THE FAO STUDENT REFERRED TO ABOVE IN PARTICULAR. THIS HAS CREATED ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR THE RESEARCH/STUDENT KIND OF ACTIVITY, AND HAS SENSITIZED MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC.

4. I AM AWARE THAT GENERAL VALENCIA TOVAR IS AWARE OF LCDR SALISBURY'S RESEARCH. BUT THAT IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH THE GOC, AND IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE RESEARCH WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE MEDIA, THE PUBLIC AND EVEN THE PRESIDENT/FOREIGN MINISTER.

5. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS I CANNOT GRANT COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR THE SEVEN MONTH IN-COUNTRY RESEARCH REQUESTED AND MUST IN FACT WITHDRAW EVEN THE ONE MONTH CLEARANCE. I SINCERELY REGRET THIS FOR I HAVE NO WISH TO COMPLICATE LCDR SALISBURY'S ACADEMIC PLANS OR IMPEDE ACADEMICALLY INTERESTING RESEARCH. IT IS MY CONVICTION, HOWEVER, THAT LARGER US INTERESTS AND RISKS TO US POSTURE HERE ARE INVOLVED.

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